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Dr. Darlene Konkle has been named as Wisconsin's Assistant State Veterinarian and bureau director of animal disease control for the Division of Animal Health in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

"In her current role, Dr. Konkle has forged strong relationships with industry leaders, stakeholders and partners that will serve the agency well," said Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw in making the announcement today. "Couple that with her broad knowledge of all division programs and private practice experience and we have a strong team making sure we are prepared to deal with any possible animal health issue,"

Konkle has overseen the division's veterinary emergency management program since 2007, where she monitors foreign animal diseases and helps the state prepare for potential disease outbreak responses. Prior to joining the department in 2005 as part of the agency's Johne's (pronounced yo-knees) disease program, she was in private practice and academia for 12 years in Wisconsin, Montana, Kentucky and Saskatchewan, Canada.

"I'm enthusiastic about working with Dr. McGraw and division staff to continue strengthening our programs and relationships that will protect Wisconsin's animal and public health," Konkle said.

A native of Freedom, a small town between Appleton and Green Bay, Konkle received her bachelor's degree in meat and animal science as well as her DVM from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She

also completed a residency in large animal internal medicine and a master's degree in respiratory physiology at UW-Madison.

Read more about the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection's Division of Animal Health, visit datcp.wi.gov. You can also connect with us on Twitter at twitter.com/widatcp or Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp.

Exotic Animals: Who's in Charge?

By Dr. Yvonne Bellay, Humane Programs Manager/Epidemiologist

An angry email reported a Capuchin monkey for sale on Craigslist. The sender stated she was sure that selling the monkeys had to be illegal in some way and was sending the information on so that action could be taken.

A frustrated and angry caller found out that a neighbor to his child's day care was keeping an African lion in his backyard. The caller had contacted several local and state agencies and could not find out who was responsible for allowing such a thing.

Behind most of these concerns or complaints is a general assumption that some central system of regulation is in place to deal with exotic animals. However, the reality is that current exotic animal regulations result in a patchwork quilt of laws, the motivations for enactment of which are generally concerns about public health, public safety, and animal welfare.

Rare and exotic pets are big business and readily available. A simple Google search of "Exotic animals for sale" gives 3 million hits. The trade in exotic animals is reported to be a multi-billion-dollar enterprise annually.

Federal law does not regulate the simple possession of exotic animals, but instead relies on state and local laws to manage the problem. Generally, federal law is limited to laws regulating interstate commerce. An example is the Captive Wildlife Safety Act which prohibits the interstate commerce of big cats. The USDA regulates exotic warm-blooded animals under the Animal Welfare Act, but only if they are exhibited or sold. Exotic animals that are kept as "pets" in a private collection and are not exhibited or sold to the public are not subject to USDA/APHIS—Animal Care (USDA/APHIS—AC) regulation. Concerns regarding exotic animals under the jurisdiction of USDA/APHIS—AC should be directed to the agency's Eastern regional office at 919-855-7100.

Exotic animal regulations vary from state to state, ranging from complete bans to no regulations at all. Wisconsin is reported to be one of six remaining states with little to no restrictions on the private possession of dangerous wild animals. The others are Alabama, Nevada, North Carolina, West Virginia, and South Carolina. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) regulations regarding exotic animals are centered on disease control and tracing. Any wild or exotic animal imported into Wisconsin must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and an import permit. As a result of the 2003 Monkey Pox outbreak, which resulted in 39 reported human

cases in Wisconsin, prairie dogs and several African-origin rodent species are prohibited from entering Wisconsin. Questions regarding import requirements for exotic animals coming into Wisconsin should be directed to DATCP, Animal Health, at 608-224-4874.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for the management of the state's native wildlife species. Consequently, non-native species such as African lions are not under the DNR's authority. DNR regulations do classify certain animals as "harmful wild animals" making them subject to specified restrictions. Included in this category are wolf-dog hybrids which require a permit from DNR, must be permanently identified, and spayed or neutered by six months of age. Questions regarding the regulation of Wisconsin native wild animal species and licensing requirements should be directed to the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

Although Wisconsin has no statewide exotic animal laws, a number of local governments have passed ordinances limiting exotic animal ownership. Like state laws, the specific details of the local ordinances vary. Many of the local ordinances are outright prohibitions or bans, versus licensing requirements. There is also great variation in the local laws regarding the specific animals or broad categories of animals that are regulated. In order to know if there are bans or specific regulations in place regarding the ownership or possession of exotic animals in a specific jurisdiction, it is necessary to consult local ordinances.

Enforcement of Wisconsin's animal cruelty statute, Chapter 951, Crimes Against Animals, is the duty and responsibility of the county. Investigation of complaints regarding welfare issues involving all animals, including exotic animals, is the responsibility of the county sheriff's department or humane officer, if one is appointed for that jurisdiction.

Biosecurity at fairs is essential to animal health

Memories of last year's outbreak of H3N2v linger as we welcome the beginning of the 2013 fair season. Biosecurity is the best way to protect your livestock from disease. It's the practice of common sense, day-to-day procedures that create a barrier between disease and your animals and reduces disease transmission. Strict biosecurity procedures are easy, inexpensive to implement, and provide immediate protection.

- Vaccinate livestock as appropriate.
- Test livestock for common diseases and bring them to shows only if they test negative.
- Clean and disinfect vehicles used to transport animals to and from the show, and vehicles used at the show, before and after the show.
- Isolate exhibited animals returning to their farms or animals purchased at the show for 21 days before mingling them with other stock.
- Make sure the show organizers provide hand washing stations for use by exhibitors and visitors alike.
- Immediately remove from the exhibition any animal that show evidence of having contagious or infectious diseases.

For more detailed information about biosecurity at fairs and exhibitions, please read our information sheet at datcp.wi.gov.

Religious exemption to premises registration now available

Livestock owners in Wisconsin who declare a sincerely held religious belief opposing registration of a livestock premises can apply for exemption effective June 1, 2013. Anyone who follows the established tenets and teachings of such a religious organization is able to complete an exemption form and sign an affidavit that affirms that belief.

Only individuals can apply for a religious exemption, not a company. If the information provided in the affidavit cannot be verified by DATCP, the application may be denied and current premises registration requirements will apply.

The application and affidavit are found on our website at datcp.wi.gov.

Small poultry flock medicine training a success

As we continue to see an increase in the number of small poultry flocks across the state, the demand for veterinary services continues to grow. More than 150 veterinarians attended two small poultry flock medicine trainings provided by the Division of Animal Health in May. Of those, 24 veterinarians have asked to be placed on a list distributed by the Division for small poultry flock owners to contact for services. The list is available on our website at datcp.wi.gov.

Small Bytes

Federal Traceability Rule: The new federal traceability rule went into effect on March 11, 2013. In general, all livestock moving interstate are required to be officially identified and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI). For cattle, breed registration numbers and tattoos are no longer considered official identification for interstate movement. All dairy cattle including steers are required to be officially identified and have a CVI to move interstate. Sexually intact beef cattle are only required to be officially identified if they are 18 months of age or older according to federal law. However, Wisconsin still requires all sexually intact beef cattle to be officially identified and have a CVI to move into Wisconsin. Exceptions to the rule apply if moving direct to slaughter or to a federally approved livestock facility (market) that is also an approved tagging facility. Contact Dr. Gretchen May if you have questions, 608-224-4352 or email at Gretchen.May@wi.gov.

Tuberculosis in People: In 2012, Wisconsin Division of Public Health diagnosed five Mexican immigrants with *Mycobacterium bovis*. If these immigrants happened to be employed on a dairy farm, there is some risk of reverse zoonosis. The Division of Animal Health is looking to partner with the dairy industry, veterinarians and public health to educate and discuss potential health screening of employees to

mitigate this risk. The Division of Animal Health will perform risk assessments and epidemiological investigations in the future if notified of potential risk of M. bovis exposure on a dairy farm. Contact Dr. Elisabeth Patton if you have questions, 608-224-4891 or email at Elisabeth.Patton@wi.gov.

TB Blood Test for Cervids: Thirty veterinarians are now certified to collect blood for the recently approved TB Stat Pak test for cervids. Nationally this Stat Pak test is running about 13% positives and the confirmatory Dual Path Platform (DPP) test is running about 3% positive. DPP positive cervids will result in the whole cervid herd being quarantined until the disposition of the test positive animal is determined. This can be done by having the animal retesting by a federal or state district veterinarian at least 30 days after the first Stat Pak test and, if negative, the quarantine will be released. The animal could be euthanized for post-mortem exam and culture. If the animal tests positive on a second DPP, it will be classified as a reactor and condemned for post-mortem exam and culture. Contact Dr. Elisabeth Patton if you have questions, 608-224-4891 or email at Elisabeth.Patton@wi.gov.

CWD Sample Collection: The Division of Animal Health will allow producers or employees of a deer farm to collect samples for CWD testing. An initial training session for this certification took place on June 27th at the Hancock Ag Research Station with overwhelming attendance. Our second training scheduled for July 30 is currently full as well. Any interested producers who could not attend either of these trainings should contact Karen Torvell at karen.torvell@wi.gov or 608-224-4896 to secure a spot on a waiting list. Although we are training producers to collect samples, the samples must still be submitted to a diagnostic laboratory by the herd veterinarian.

Emergency Management—National Veterinary Stockpile Planning: Division of Animal Health hosted a National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) planning workshop at DATCP May 22. This workshop was designed to further develop Wisconsin's NVS plan, in preparation for a full scale exercise in 2015. Representatives from multiple agencies, including DATCP, DNR, DOT, WEM, DHS, WI National Guard, WVDL, WVMA and UW Extension attended the workshop, and provided input on agency roles and coordination for receiving the NVS countermeasures. The NVS contains caches of personal protective equipment, (including Tyvek coveralls, boots, gloves and respiratory protection), animal handling equipment and vaccine, among other items. States may request the NVS through the USDA, in the event of an emergency animal disease or, in some cases, a natural disaster. Because WI's livestock and poultry industries are spread throughout the state, Division of Animal Health is working with other agencies, WVMA and industry to develop a plan to quickly and efficiently utilize NVS countermeasures, in the event they are needed.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea: A recently detected TGE-like coronavirus. The first known detection in the US occurred in mid- to late May in IA, IN, IL, OH, MI, MN. The virus has previously been a problem in Europe and Asia. This incident generates concerns about virus introduction from other countries. Contact Dr. Darlene Konkle if you have questions, 608-224-4902 or email at Darlene.Konkle@wi.gov.

Travelling with animals this summer? Or have clients that are travelling with animals? Now that it's travel season, if you're taking animals to another state, you need to find out more about the destination state's testing and paperwork requirements. You can find the latest U.S. and international contact info on our website at datcp.wi.gov.

And if any of this travel is taking place in Kansas...you should be aware that the address on the back of the health certificates for the State Veterinarian's office in Kansas has changed. The new address is

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health to 109 SW 9th St 4th Floor Topeka , KS
66612.